



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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DMME Approves Permit Revision for Consolidation Coal Company Buchanan No. 1 Mine Water Discharge

Big Stone Gap, VA – Consolidation Coal Company's permit revision to discharge water from its Buchanan No. 1 underground coal mines into the Levisa River in Buchanan County, VA, has met with state and federal environmental standards and requirements and was approved today, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced.

The permit revision application drew considerable attention and opposition in Buchanan County and Kentucky due to its proposal to discharge mine water high in chlorides into the Levisa Fork River which flows in to Kentucky's Fish Trap Lake. Public comments were collected by DMME through written submittals and during an informal conference held in Grundy on May 23, 2006. Following an extended and comprehensive review of Consolidation's plan by the DMME, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, federal Office of Surface Mining, and Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality and Game and Inland Fisheries, DMME determined that the proposed discharge-diffusion system would meet current water quality requirements.

Based on the multi-agency review of the proposal and DMME's consideration of public comments received, the decision was made to approve the permit revision. DMME will issue a written response to anyone who submitted written or oral comments during the public comment period and informal conference.

Any person with an interest which is or may be adversely affected by DMME's decision to approve the revision may request, in writing, a formal public hearing to contest such action with the Director of the Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR), Drawer 900, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219. The DMLR shall conduct the formal hearing within 30 days from the receipt of the request. The burden of proof at the formal hearing shall be on the party seeking to reverse the decision of the DMLR. For additional information on the formal hearing process, please contact Gavin Bledsoe, Hearing and Assessment Coordinator, (276) 523-8157.

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